

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03

SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /061 W

-----230611Z 001648 /10

O 230550Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7963

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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LONDON FOR STYLES U.S. CIVAIR DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PROPOSED CHANGES IN FLYING TIGER'S JULY SCHEDULE

REF: TOKYO 7074

1. SUMMARY: LOCAL OFFICE OF FLYING TIGER HAS NOW PROPOSED REDUC-
TION OF THEIR ROUNDTrip 747 FREQUENCIES BY ONE. REQUEST DEPART-
MENT'S ADVICE SOONEST ON NOTIFYING GOJ OF THIS CHANGE AS GESTURE
DESIGNED TO GET US OVER THE "FREIGHTER CAPACITY INCREASE" HUMP.
END SUMMARY.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, DURING MOST RECENT ROUND OF CIVAIR TALKS
AND AGAIN DURING ECON MINISTER'S MAY 19 CALL AT THE MOFA (TOKYO
7434), GOJ EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE MAGNITUDE OF THE U.S.
CARRIER FREIGHTER CAPACITY INCREASES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE
FROM JULY 1.

3. LOCAL OFFICE OF FLYING TIGER HAS NOW APPROACHED US INDEPEN-
DENTLY SAYING THAT, UPON RECONSIDERATION OF THEIR SUMMER SCHEDULE,
THEY WOULD PREFER TO DELAY THE INTRODUCTION OF ONE B-747 ROUNDTrip
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FREQUENCY UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER. FLIGHT THAT WOULD BE
SCRATCHED TEMPORARILY IS #71 WESTBOUND WHICH DEPARTS NEW YORK ON
MONDAY, ARRIVING TOKYO ON TUESDAY; EASTBOUND, SCRATCHED FLIGHT
WOULD BE #74, DEPARTING HONG KONG ON MONDAY EVENING AND
DEPARTING TOKYO TUESDAY MORNING. BOTH OF THESE FLIGHTS APPEAR
ON FTL'S PRESENT (MAY 15) SCHEDULE AND IN THE SCHEDULE FILING TO
BE EFFECTIVE FROM JULY 4. HOWEVER, FTL TELLS US THAT, ALTHOUGH

THE TWO FLIGHTS ARE PRESENTLY "ON THE BOOKS", THEY HAVE NOT BEEN OPERATING THEM, USING THE WESTBOUND TIME SLOT FOR AN "EXTRA SECTION" EEL CHARTER FROM TAIWAN AND REGULARLY TURNING THE EAST-BOUND SLOT BACK INTO JCAB, HANEDA, FOR REALLOCATION. THE OFFER TO WITHDRAW THIS ROUNDTRIP FREQUENCY WOULD, THEREFORE, IN FACT BE AN "ON PAPER" REDUCTION BY ONE 747 ON FTL'S PRESENT AND FUTURE CAPACITY. IF USG, AS OPPOSED TO FTL ON ITS OWN, WERE TO OFFER THIS REDUCTION TO THE GOJ, IT MIGHT PROVIDE THE GESTURE NEEDED TO GET GOJ OVER THE HUMP IN ACCEPTING REST OF FREIGHTER INCREASES.

4. FTL'S PLAN TO INSTITUTE THIS FLIGHT FROM MID-SEPTEMBER RUNS SMACK INTO THE PLEDGE WE MADE TO UNILATERALLY WITHHOLD CAPACITY INCREASES (EXCEPT POSSIBLE WIDE-BODY SERVICE TO OSAKA AND NORMAL SEASONAL CHANGES) FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR. WE WOULD TELL GOJ THEREFORE THAT THIS DELAY IS TEMPORARY AND PROJECTED FUTURE INCREASE WOULD BE, IF QUALIFIED, FILED AS AN EXCEPTION.

5. FTL HAS ALSO TOLD US THAT THEY PLAN TO INSTITUTE A SOUT OF TOKYO ROUTING CHANGE IN THEIR FLIGHT #72, EFFECTIVE JULY 4 TO MID-SEPTEMBER. INSTEAD OF ORIGINATING IN TAIPEI SIX DAYS A WEEK, FLIGHT WOULD ORIGINATE ONCE WEEKLY FROM TAIPEI AND FIVE TIMES WEEKLY FROM SEOUL. ALTHOUGH THIS SHOULD BE COUNTED AS A "PLUS FIVE, MINUS FIVE, NET ZERO" IN TERMS OF CAPACITY INCREASE, OWING TO INCREASINGLY RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATIONS AFOOT IN THE JCAB, EMBASSY WOULD SUGGEST WE COVER THIS CHANGE TOO IN MAKING AMENDED FILING.

6. WE UNDERSTAND FTL'S PRESIDENT PARTRIDGE WILL BE IN TOUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS CHANGES MENTIONED PARAS 3 AND 5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE SOONEST ON MAKING THIS APPROACH WHILE GOJ STILL CONSIDERING FREIGHTER CAPACITY INCREASES AND OUR OVERALL MAY 13 PROPOSAL. SHOESMITH

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